ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS



Episode #246
Cornish Smugglers
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Transcript

[00:00:00] Hello, hello, hello, and welcome to English Learning for Curious Minds by Leonardo English

[00:00:12] The show where you can listen to fascinating stories and learn weird and wonderful things about the world, at the same time as improving your English.

[00:00:22] I'm Alastair Budge, and today we are going to be talking about Cornish **Smugglers**[1].

[00:00:28] Today's story is one of my favourites, and involves crime, taxes, regional **rivalries**[2] in the UK, pirates, the King of Prussia, and even murder.

[00:00:42] OK, then Cornish **Smugglers**.

[00:00:47] These two words, Cornish, and **Smuggler**[3], might be unfamiliar to you, so if you are wondering what this episode is going to be about, let me quickly **enlighten**[4] you.

[00:01:02] Cornish means from the English county of Cornwall, the area to the very south west of the country, directly across from Brittany, in northwestern France.

[1] people who secretly bring goods into a country illegally, often to avoid paying tax

[2] situations in which groups compete with or dislike each other

[3] someone who secretly brings goods into a country illegally, often to avoid paying tax

[4] explain things to; give information to

[00:01:14] And a **smuggler**, if you didn't know the word, is someone who brings in something to a country without **declaring**[5] it to the authorities, typically because it is illegal, in the case of something like drugs, or because they simply don't want to pay taxes on it.

[00:01:35] So, today we are going to be talking about the fascinating history of **smuggling**[6] in Cornwall. First off we'll talk about the reasons why this area of the country was such a **hotbed**[7] for it, then how it actually worked, when it all happened, and we'll have the chance to meet some of the **colourful**[8] characters behind it all.

[00:02:03] Let's start with a quick reminder about the place we're talking about, Cornwall.

[00:02:09] Cornwall today is a large, rural, county famous for its beautiful beaches and even its surfing.

[00:02:18] It's known for its **idyllic**[9] villages, beautiful countryside, and delicious seafood, and it's consistently one of the top tourist destinations in the country, especially for people planning a "**staycation**[10]" - a slightly silly word for having a vacation while staying in the country.

[5] officially reporting

[6] secretly and illegally bringing goods into a country

[7] a place where a lot of a particular activity happens

[8] interesting and unusual

[9] very peaceful, pretty and pleasant

[10] a holiday spent in your own country instead of abroad

[00:02:43] And if you were to go to Cornwall from London, from the capital, you would realise that it's a very long way away, by UK standards at least.

[00:02:55] It's about 500km away, and would take you about 6 hours to drive there. It's almost as far away from London as Scotland is.

[00:03:08] And this distance from the country's capital has always meant that Cornwall has retained a lot of its sense of independence.

[00:03:19] It has its own language, Cornish, which is similar to Breton, the Celtic language of Brittany, in northern France.

[00:03:29] It has its own flag, and the Cornish people have a real sense of their own, Cornish, identity.

[00:03:39] And, understandably, people in a region with a strong sense of its own identity are not always so **keen**[11] on taking orders from the central government.

[00:03:52] This is, of course, not a uniquely British phenomenon.

[00:03:57] There's a saying in Mandarin Chinese which is "Tiān gāo, huángdì yuǎn", which you would translate as "Heaven is high and the emperor is far away", and there's another in Russian that translates as something like "God is on high and the tsar is very far away".

[11] eager; happy and willing

[00:04:20] Both of these phrases have similar meanings - the further a place is away from the central seat of government and power, the less likely that place is to **abide**[12] by the law.

[00:04:36] Although we have no such saying in English, Cornwall would be a place where such a saying would be appropriate.

[00:04:45] And if you were to travel back in time, to the 18th century, such a saying would have practically been the official **motto**[13] of Cornwall, due to the levels of **smuggling** going on in the region.

[00:05:00] Why, you might ask? Well, for **smuggling** to be attractive, there needs to be a big advantage to importing something to a country illegally instead of **declaring** it to the authorities.

[00:05:15] It just so happened that in Britain of the 18th century, there was a large advantage.

[00:05:24] Britain had spent much of the 18th century in military conflicts with its old **foe**[14], its old enemy, France. Wars are expensive, and to pay for them, governments need to generate money.

[00:05:40] How do governments raise money? Taxes, of course.

[12] obey or follow (used with 'by')

[13] a short phrase that expresses the beliefs or aims of a place or group

[14] an enemy

[00:05:44] And at this time the main source of tax revenue was on goods being brought into the country - an income tax, a tax on money you make, wasn't introduced until 1789.

[00:06:00] Given the national **reliance**[15] on import taxes, these taxes were pretty high.

[00:06:07] The tax on imported tea was as high as 110%, meaning that tea that cost, let's say €1, would have another €1.10 added in tax, more than doubling the cost.

[00:06:26] Imported alcohol was even more highly taxed.

[00:06:31] There were 18 different taxes on brandy and gin, which would mean a €10 bottle would have €25 of tax added to it, taking the final cost to €35.

[00:06:47] So, it will not surprise you to find out that people did everything they could to avoid paying these taxes, by **smuggling** goods into the country without **declaring** them to the authorities.

[00:07:01] And Cornwall was the **epicentre**[16], the absolute center, of this activity.

[00:07:08] We already know that Cornwall is far from London. It's almost 6 hours driving on modern roads, and in the 18th century there were very limited roads, meaning it would have taken weeks to get there on a horse.

[15] dependence; the need to have something

[16] the main place where most of an activity happens

[00:07:25] Cornwall also has a lot of **coastline**[17], and a lot of small, hidden **bays**[18], which can come in useful for bringing goods onto land without anyone noticing.

[00:07:38] The Cornish people also felt no real loyalty to the King, a man who was asking them to pay for wars against France, a country that many Cornish people would have felt more in common with than they did with Londoners.

[00:07:57] The result was a **boom**[19] in **smuggling**, and at its **peak**[20] the central British government, when asked to estimate the **extent**[21] of **smuggling** in Cornwall, estimated that no less than the entire adult population was involved in **smuggling**, either as an importer of **smuggled**[22] goods or as a consumer.

[00:08:22] So, how did it actually work in practice?

[00:08:26] There were **gangs**[23] of **smugglers**, who would either work in collaboration with the traders, or who would steal from them.

[00:08:34] For those working in collaboration with the traders, **in the dead of night**[24] the **smugglers** would go out silently on their boats, they would go up to the side of a

[17] the land along the edge of the sea

[18] areas of sea partly surrounded by land, where the coast curves inwards

[19] a sudden large increase

[20] highest or busiest point

[21] the size or amount

[22] brought into a country secretly and illegally

[23] organised groups of criminals

[24] in the middle of the night, when it is darkest and quietest

ship full of rum or brandy, and the ship would **offload**[25] a large part of its **cargo**[26] to the **smugglers**.

[00:08:55] They would then return to the **shore**[27], and the goods would enter the local market, **undeclared**[28] of course, meaning that they could be sold for significantly less than what the cost would have been if tax had been paid on them.

[00:09:11] Alternatively, the smugglers would simply sail to mainland Europe, normally northern France, buy goods there, and return to Cornwall, and then import them without **declaring** it to the authorities.

[00:09:26] By all reports, this type of **smuggling** was so **tolerated**[29] by the Cornish people that it wasn't really considered to be illegal or immoral at all.

[00:09:39] The tax was **unjust**[30], it was wrong, and the **smugglers** were simply providing a service. The **smugglers** played an important part in the local economy, and they were able to pay large amounts of money to anyone who was involved.

[25] remove and pass on

[26] the goods carried by a ship

[27] the land at the edge of the sea

[28] not officially reported to the authorities

[29] accepted and allowed to happen

[30] not fair or morally right

[00:09:56] Indeed, it's said that a normal farm **labourer**[31] was able to earn more money in one night carrying a **smuggled** **barrel**[32] of brandy up a cliff than he could earn during an entire month **labouring**[33] in the fields.

[00:10:12] So, it's no surprise that so many people were happy to be involved.

[00:10:18] There was a slightly darker side to **smuggling**, though, and this is where the line between an honest **smuggler** and a not-so-honest pirate becomes a little **blurred**[34].

[00:10:32] **Smugglers** would normally pay for the goods that they would import illegally.

[00:10:37] They would make their money by selling on these goods for more than they paid for them.

[00:10:43] But what if they didn't need to pay for them at all?

[00:10:48] There are reports of **smugglers** actually going out and attacking trade ships, killing the people on board and taking their goods. Of course, it goes without saying that these stolen goods were also not **declared**[35] to the authorities.

[31] a worker who does hard physical work

[32] a large, round wooden container for liquids

[33] doing hard physical work

[34] unclear; difficult to see or tell apart

[35] officially reported

[00:11:05] And there are other **tales**[36] of things that the local population would do to get their hands on the goods that were being carried on these ships.

[00:11:16] Sometimes a ship would crash into the dangerous rocks in **shallow**[37] water, its **crew**[38] would **drown**[39], they would die, and the ship would be **washed ashore**[40].

[00:11:28] When this happened **word would get out**[41], people would find out, and would **rush**[42] to the **site**[43] of the **shipwreck**[44] to see what they could take for themselves.

[00:11:40] There are also reports of groups of Cornish people attaching a **lantern**[45], a light, to a horse and walking along a piece of **coastline** that was dangerous for boats, in order to **trick**[46] the boat into thinking that the light was a lighthouse, so that the boat would come close, crash on the rocks, and the **smugglers** could take this **precious**[47] **cargo**.

[36] stories
[37] not deep
[38] the people who work on a ship
[39] die because they are under water and cannot breathe
[40] carried by the sea onto the beach
[41] news would spread; people would hear about it
[42] go very quickly
[43] the place where something happened
[44] the remains of a boat that has crashed or sunk
[45] a lamp inside a case, often carried to give light
[46] fool or deceive
[47] very valuable

[00:12:08] And taking these goods was actually legal in some circumstances.

[00:12:15] There was a **quirk**[48], a slightly strange element, to the English law about what you could and couldn't do if you found a **shipwreck** on a beach.

[00:12:27] It was illegal, it was not allowed, to take the goods of a **shipwreck** if there were any survivors, because those survivors still legally owned the goods, or at least were **in charge of**[49] them.

[00:12:42] But if there were no survivors, then it was actually allowed by law for anyone who found the **shipwreck** to take the goods they found.

[00:12:54] So, surprise surprise, when a ship full of French brandy or Chinese tea was **washed ashore**, it was very rare for the people who found the ship to declare that they had found any survivors.

[00:13:10] Or let me put it another way, you wouldn't want to be the only survivor on a ship that was full of expensive brandy.

[00:13:19] And there was very little that the government authorities could do to stop **smuggling**.

[00:13:26] The punishment for **smuggling** was death, it was a capital offence. But this was only a **deterrent**[50] if you were likely to get caught.

[48] a strange or unusual feature

[49] responsible for; having control over

[50] something that stops people doing something because they fear what will happen

[00:13:38] There were customs officers sent down from London, men whose role it was to **ensure**[51] that imported goods were correctly taxed, but they were very unpopular, they were paid very little, and there weren't very many of them.

[00:13:56] They were completely **outnumbered**[52] by the **smugglers**, and many would **turn a blind eye**[53], they would pretend not to notice, often in exchange for a **bribe**[54], in exchange for money.

[00:14:11] The **smugglers**, too, were popular with the local population. They paid well, they were providing cheaper goods, and they **cultivated**[55] a **reputation**[56] as honest, **fair**[57] men.

[00:14:25] One particular **smuggler** who has gone down in Cornish history is a man named John Carter, who had the nickname of The King of Prussia. He liked to be called the King of Prussia when he was a boy, and as he grew into a man, well, the name stuck.

[51] make sure; make certain

[52] far fewer than the people on the other side

[53] pretend not to notice something wrong

[54] money or a gift given dishonestly to make someone do something

[55] worked to build or develop

[56] the opinion that people generally have of someone

[57] treating people equally and reasonably

[00:14:48] Today, there is a “Prussia Cove” in Cornwall, which is the small, secret **bay**[58] where he would **unload**[59] his **smuggled** goods.

[00:14:57] He was known as a highly moral man, fighting against an immoral tax.

[00:15:05] There’s a famous story of what happened when some of his **smuggled** goods were found by a customs official, and were **taken into custody**[60], essentially taken away from him. **In the dead of night** he broke into Customs House, the building in which all the captured goods had been stored.

[00:15:27] He and his men looked through all of the goods, but they only took what had been taken from him, leaving the rest of the goods.

[00:15:39] One of the customs officers was reported as saying “John Carter has been here. We know it because he has taken nothing away that was not his own.”

[00:15:52] John Carter, this King of Prussia, was no thief - he was simply taking back what was **rightfully**[61] his.

[00:16:01] There is even a pub in the town of Fowey in Cornwall called “The King of Prussia”.

[58] an area of sea partly surrounded by land, where the coast curves inwards

[59] take off a boat and bring onto land

[60] taken away and held by the authorities

[61] legally and morally

[00:16:07] Visitors who don't know the story of Cornwall's **smuggling** past might think "how strange - why are they celebrating the King of Prussia here?" but it is, in fact, the celebration of the unofficial King of Prussia, the **smuggler** John Carter.

[00:16:26] Now, back to our story, **smuggling** continued pretty **uninterrupted**[62] for the majority of the 18th century.

[00:16:35] Import taxes remained high, which created the **incentive**[63] to **smuggle**[64]. There were far too few customs officers, far too few government officials in the area to stop it, which meant there was very little **disincentive**[65], there was no great reason to not do it.

[00:16:56] And for almost a hundred years, **the going was good**[66]. Many smugglers became very wealthy, and the industry, if indeed we can call it an industry, was **vital**[67] to the Cornish people.

[00:17:10] There's one quote I particularly liked about this that **illustrates**[68] the **extent** of the riches that came from **smuggling**. The quote is, and I'm quoting directly:

[62] without stopping or being stopped
[63] a reason or encouragement to do something
[64] bring goods into a country secretly and illegally
[65] a reason not to do something
[66] times were easy and successful
[67] extremely important; necessary
[68] shows clearly; is an example of

[00:17:23] "When **smuggling** was **in full swing**[69], money became so **plentiful**[70] that neighbours **lent**[71] guineas to each other **by the handful**[72], not stopping to count, or being so **particular**[73] as to **reckon**[74] by ones and twos'."

[00:17:40] To explain that, a guinea was quite a valuable coin - it's like saying today that neighbours would lend each other **piles**[75] of 50 Euro notes without **bothering**[76] to count how many notes there were in the **pile**[77].

[00:17:57] But **smuggling** was costing the British taxpayer **dearly**[78].

[00:18:01] It's estimated that up to 25% of the entire British import trade during the 18th century consisted of **smuggled** goods, goods on which tax had not been paid.

[00:18:15] And for certain goods, the percentage was much higher.

[00:18:21] Up to 500,000 gallons of brandy, which is 2.3 million litres, were **smuggled** into Britain every year.

[69] at its most active or busiest
[70] available in large amounts
[71] gave for a time, expecting to get it back
[72] in large amounts, as much as you could grab at once
[73] careful about exact details; fussy
[74] count; calculate
[75] amounts of things placed one on top of another
[76] making the effort
[77] an amount of things placed one on top of another
[78] a great deal; very heavily

[00:18:31] And some estimates have as much as 80% of tea drunk in Britain being **smuggled** into the country.

[00:18:40] But the good times weren't to last forever. In the late 18th century import taxes were lowered, and the number of customs officers employed to stop the **smugglers** increased.

[00:18:55] It was a **double punch**[79], a **double whammy**[80], a **pincer movement**[81].

[00:19:00] Now there was less of an **incentive**, less of a reason, to **smuggle**, because the taxes weren't nearly as high as before. And you were much more likely to get caught.

[00:19:13] The **glory days**[82] of the Cornish **smuggler** were over, and by the mid 19th century the amount of **smuggling** had **drastically**[83] reduced.

[00:19:23] **Smuggling** does live on in Cornish legends, though.

[00:19:27] You can find it in pub names, like the King of Prussia or even the Bucket of Blood, a pub named after a **landlord**[84] who went into his **well**[85] one morning and

[79] two hits or blows at the same time
[80] two bad things that happen at the same time
[81] an attack from two sides at once
[82] the most successful time in the past
[83] by a very large amount; very greatly
[84] a man who owns or runs a pub
[85] a deep hole in the ground from which water is taken

pulled out[86] the head of a customs officer who had presumably[87] been getting too close to the smugglers.

[00:19:48] And if you go to Cornwall today, and I would certainly recommend a visit, you can visit the coastline, you can see the rocks where the ships might have got stuck, you can see the sandy beaches where the smugglers would have unloaded[88] their cargo, and visit the caves where it would have been stored.

[00:20:10] It might have been illegal, it might have been punishable by death, and it might have technically been stealing money from the British taxpayer, but it's hard to deny that there is something quite magical about the legend of the Cornish Smuggler.

[00:20:29] OK then, that is it for today's episode on Cornish Smugglers.

[00:20:34] I hope it's been an interesting one, that you've learnt something new, and that you now know a little bit about this curious element of British history.

[00:20:44] As always, I would love to know what you thought of this episode.

[00:20:48] Have you been to Cornwall? What do you think about Cornish Smugglers?

[00:20:53] Were they real criminals, or simply people doing whatever they could to get by[89]?

[86] lifted out; took out

[87] probably; as you would expect

[88] taken off their boats and brought onto land

[89] manage to live, especially with little money

[00:20:59] And are there interesting stories of **smugglers** from your country?

[00:21:04] I would love to know.

[00:21:06] You can head right into our community forum, which is at community.leonardoenglish.com and get chatting away to other curious minds.

[00:21:14] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:21:20] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

[END OF EPISODE]

Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Smugglers	people who secretly bring goods into a country illegally, often to avoid paying tax
Rivalries	situations in which groups compete with or dislike each other
Smuggler	someone who secretly brings goods into a country illegally, often to avoid paying tax
Enlighten	explain things to; give information to
Declaring	officially reporting
Smuggling	secretly and illegally bringing goods into a country
Hotbed	a place where a lot of a particular activity happens
Colourful	interesting and unusual
Idyllic	very peaceful, pretty and pleasant

Staycation	a holiday spent in your own country instead of abroad
Keen	eager; happy and willing
Abide	obey or follow (used with 'by')
Motto	a short phrase that expresses the beliefs or aims of a place or group
Foe	an enemy
Reliance	dependence; the need to have something
Epicentre	the main place where most of an activity happens
Coastline	the land along the edge of the sea
Bays	areas of sea partly surrounded by land, where the coast curves inwards
Boom	a sudden large increase
Peak	highest or busiest point
Extent	the size or amount

Smuggled	brought into a country secretly and illegally
Gangs	organised groups of criminals
In the dead of night	in the middle of the night, when it is darkest and quietest
Offload	remove and pass on
Cargo	the goods carried by a ship
Shore	the land at the edge of the sea
Undeclared	not officially reported to the authorities
Tolerated	accepted and allowed to happen
Unjust	not fair or morally right
Labourer	a worker who does hard physical work
Barrel	a large, round wooden container for liquids
Labouring	doing hard physical work

Blurred	unclear; difficult to see or tell apart
Declared	officially reported
Tales	stories
Shallow	not deep
Crew	the people who work on a ship
Drown	die because they are under water and cannot breathe
Washed ashore	carried by the sea onto the beach
Word would get out	news would spread; people would hear about it
Rush	go very quickly
Site	the place where something happened
Shipwreck	the remains of a boat that has crashed or sunk
Lantern	a lamp inside a case, often carried to give light

Trick	fool or deceive
Precious	very valuable
Quirk	a strange or unusual feature
In charge of	responsible for; having control over
Deterrent	something that stops people doing something because they fear what will happen
Ensure	make sure; make certain
Outnumbered	far fewer than the people on the other side
Turn a blind eye	pretend not to notice something wrong
Bribe	money or a gift given dishonestly to make someone do something
Cultivated	worked to build or develop
Reputation	the opinion that people generally have of someone
Fair	treating people equally and reasonably

Bay	an area of sea partly surrounded by land, where the coast curves inwards
Unload	take off a boat and bring onto land
Taken into custody	taken away and held by the authorities
Rightfully	legally and morally
Uninterrupted	without stopping or being stopped
Incentive	a reason or encouragement to do something
Smuggle	bring goods into a country secretly and illegally
Disincentive	a reason not to do something
The going was good	times were easy and successful
Vital	extremely important; necessary
Illustrates	shows clearly; is an example of

In full swing	at its most active or busiest
Plentiful	available in large amounts
Lent	gave for a time, expecting to get it back
By the handful	in large amounts, as much as you could grab at once
Particular	careful about exact details; fussy
Reckon	count; calculate
Piles	amounts of things placed one on top of another
Bothering	making the effort
Pile	an amount of things placed one on top of another
Dearly	a great deal; very heavily
Double punch	two hits or blows at the same time

Double whammy	two bad things that happen at the same time
Pincer movement	an attack from two sides at once
Glory days	the most successful time in the past
Drastically	by a very large amount; very greatly
Landlord	a man who owns or runs a pub
Well	a deep hole in the ground from which water is taken
Pulled out	lifted out; took out
Presumably	probably; as you would expect
Unloaded	taken off their boats and brought onto land
Get by	manage to live, especially with little money

Language spotlight

1. In the dead of night

- **Meaning**: In the middle of the night, when it is darkest and quietest.
- **Synonyms**: late at night, in the small hours, under cover of darkness
- **Antonyms**: in broad daylight, in the middle of the day, at midday
- **Examples**:
    - The thieves broke into the shop **in the dead of night**, when the street was empty.
    - I woke up **in the dead of night** because I heard a strange noise downstairs.

2. Turn a blind eye

- **Meaning**: To deliberately ignore something wrong that you know is happening.
- **Synonyms**: look the other way, ignore, overlook
- **Antonyms**: take action, speak up, crack down on
- **Examples**:
    - The manager **turned a blind eye** to staff arriving late as long as the work got done.
    - Some teachers **turn a blind eye** when students use their phones in class.

3. In full swing

- **Meaning**: At the most active or busy stage of something.
- **Synonyms**: at its height, at its peak, well under way
- **Antonyms**: winding down, dying down, at a standstill
- **Examples**:
    - By the time we arrived, the party was already **in full swing**.
    - Preparations for the festival are **in full swing**, with workers building stages all over town.

4. Double whammy

- **Meaning**: Two bad things that happen at the same time or one straight after the other.
- **Synonyms**: a double blow, a one-two punch, a twin setback
- **Antonyms**: a stroke of luck, a lucky break, a double blessing
- **Examples**:
    - Losing my job and then breaking my leg in the same week was a real **double whammy**.
    - Farmers faced a **double whammy** of dry weather and falling prices.

5. Get by

- **Meaning**: To manage to live or survive, usually with only just enough money or resources.
- **Synonyms**: manage, scrape by, make ends meet
- **Antonyms**: go under, fail to cope, live in luxury
- **Examples**:
    - When I was a student, I **got by** on very little money.
    - She doesn't speak much French, but she knows enough to **get by** in Paris.

Quiz

Listening Comprehension Multiple Choice Questions

1. According to the episode, why has Cornwall kept a strong sense of independence?

a) Its people originally came from France

b) It is a long way from the capital

c) Its rulers refused to pay any taxes

d) It has a larger population than London

2. Why were import taxes so high in 18th-century Britain?

a) To protect British farmers from foreign goods

b) To reduce how much tea and alcohol people drank

c) To pay for wars, as they were the main source of tax

d) To punish Cornwall for its links with France

3. How did smugglers who worked with the traders get their goods?

a) They met ships at night and took part of their cargo

b) They bought goods openly at the port in London

c) They hid goods among fish brought in by local boats

d) They paid customs officers to collect goods for them

4. Under English law, when could people legally take the goods from a shipwreck?

a) When the ship was carrying goods from France

b) When they reported it to customs within a day

c) When the ship crashed on their own land

d) When nobody on the ship had survived

5. Why did smuggling decline from the late 18th century?

a) Taxes fell and more customs officers were employed

b) New roads made Cornwall much easier to reach

c) Local people turned against the smugglers

d) Britain stopped importing brandy and tea

True or False

6. Cornwall is about 500km away from London. (True/False)

7. Britain introduced an income tax in the early 18th century. (True/False)

8. The tax on imported tea was as high as 110%. (True/False)

9. The customs officers sent to Cornwall were well paid and popular. (True/False)

10. John Carter took all the goods he found in the Customs House. (True/False)

Fill in the Blanks

11. For those working in collaboration with the traders, in the _____ of night the smugglers would go out silently on their boats.

12. They were completely outnumbered by the smugglers, and many would turn a blind ___, they would pretend not to notice.

13. And for almost a hundred years, the going was ____.

14. When smuggling was in full _____, money became so plentiful that neighbours lent guineas to each other by the handful.

15. The _____ days of the Cornish smuggler were over.

Vocabulary Practice

16. What does "**hotbed**" mean when Alastair describes Cornwall's role in smuggling?

a) A warm area of soil where plants grow quickly

b) A place that is dangerous for ships to visit

c) A place where a particular activity happens a lot

d) A place where stolen goods are kept hidden

17. What does "**quirk**" mean in the description of the English law about shipwrecks?

a) A serious mistake or weakness

b) A strange or unusual feature

c) A sudden change of direction

d) A secret agreement between people

18. In the podcast, what does "**deterrent**" mean?

a) Something that rewards people for reporting a crime

b) Something that lets people keep what they find

c) Something that people pay when bringing in goods

d) Something that makes people afraid to do something

19. What does "**cultivated**" mean when Alastair says the smugglers cultivated a reputation?

a) Worked to build or develop

b) Grew and prepared land for crops

c) Lost through careless behaviour

d) Bought with money from smuggling

20. What does "**drastically**" mean when Alastair says smuggling had drastically reduced?

a) Slowly and over a long time

b) By a small amount only

c) By a very large amount

d) For a short time only

Answers

1. b) It is a long way from the capital
2. c) To pay for wars, as they were the main source of tax
3. a) They met ships at night and took part of their cargo
4. d) When nobody on the ship had survived
5. a) Taxes fell and more customs officers were employed
6. True
7. False
8. True
9. False
10. False
11. dead
12. eye
13. good
14. swing
15. glory
16. c) A place where a particular activity happens a lot
17. b) A strange or unusual feature
18. d) Something that makes people afraid to do something

19. a) Worked to build or develop

20. c) By a very large amount